1996-98 Cadillac Deville/Concours

Vital Info

NAGS® Number DW1227/1228

This vehicle has the rain sensor option. If a rain sensor is present, you must obtain the mounting kit from the dealer or distributor.
Make sure that you use the windshield that accepts the rain sensor.
The top molding is salvageable in warm weather, but have it available just in case.
Cure time recommended is six hours at 72°F, 30 percent RH.
The windshield installed did not have a rain sensor, though instructions are given. The vehicle had the "carriage" roof option.

Windshield

Removal

Protect all surfaces inside and out. Place protective tape in the areas where a tool may slip and damage the surface.Tape the defroster vents to prevent glass and debris from falling into them.

Open the hood. Remove the wipers.

Note: The molding can be saved on warm days. However, it is wise to have a replacement handy before the work is started.

There is no cowl.

Pull out the carriage roof decorative bead at the front of the roof. Be careful not to damage it.

Remove the weatherstrip along the "A" pillar to reveal three Phillips screws on each side. Remove the screws and the molding. The molding is sometimes glued down due to excessive urethane and care must be taken to avoid bending the molding.

Remove the top molding. This is a wrap around style, but is usually salvageable.

Remove the rear view mirror, and disconnect the wiring harness from the back. Place it in the back seat.

Remove connector from rain sensor module. If necessary, apply heat around the perimeter of the module. Be careful not to damage the glass or module. Twist the module off the glass. Remove tape residue from the back of the module with your fingers. Then place the module into the tray and solution, per instructions, and soak for 15 minutes. Carefully dry the module of solution.

Caution: Do not allow the cleaning solution to enter the module. If it enters the module, the module must be replaced.

Cut out the windshield using the desired tool. The adhesive bead is of normal thickness, except in the top corners. It may be necessary to use a longer blade in these areas. If removal is with a power tool, don't forget to lubricate the cutting area with water.

Before you clean and prep the pinchweld, dry set the glass in the opening for alignment purposes. Mark the glass and body with alignment tape, and cut the tape at the edge of the glass.

Installation

Prepare the pinchweld for installation according to the adhesive manufacturer's instructions.

Wash the glass with a non-alcohol glass cleaner. Allow to dry thoroughly. Only use lint-free paper towels. Cloth towels may have a residue that could cause improper bonding.

Attach the windshield moldings to the top of the glass.

Apply any glass primer or preps to the bonding area of the glass part. Allow to dry for the appropriate time period.

There are no setting blocks for this windshield. Make sure that preparations are made to support the glass for the duration of the adhesive cure. There is a leaf catcher at the bottom that could support a temporary rubber block.

Apply the adhesive to the glass or pinchweld with a V-cut applicator tip.

Set the glass into the opening using suction cups.

Note: A vehicle equipped with a carriage roof poses problems in setting the glass. We recommend a second person.

Press the glass firmly to wet-out the adhesive to the glass.

Water test immediately, using warm water. Repair any leaks.

Install the rain sensor module by following the instructions provided.

Important: Make sure when applying the tape to the module that hands do not touch the surface of the tape. Also, make sure that the placement of the module to the glass is correct according to instructions. Failure to follow these instructions will cause the sensor to malfunction.

On the carriage roof models, apply a small amount of non-corrosive silicone or similar product to the seam between the carriage roof and the original roof. Then push the decorative bead into the seam. Without some kind of adhesive, the bead will work itself out.

Replace the moldings in reverse order. Clean up any excess adhesive, and clean the glass.

Make sure there is a window or vent left open until the adhesive cures.

Contributed by Bob Beranek, Automotive Glass Experts, Corp. ■